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Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Art Unit 2456

Mail Stop Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 10/076,181; Filing or 371(c) Date: February 12, 2002

For: System and Method for Providing Distributed Access Control to

Secured Items

Inventors: HILDEBRAND et al.

Our Ref: 2222.5390002

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action is an Amendment and Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111.

The document is being filed electronically through EFS-Web.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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GJP/R-B/cs Enclosure